

Claim Amendments

Deletions Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cat toy apparatus, comprising:

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

a object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

a cat-attracting object;

a flexible line connecting the cat-attracting object to the distal end portion of the object-holding arm; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the cat-attracting object about the motor-supporting structure [[.]];

said cat toy further comprising at least four base-stabilizing members on the base that are rotatable by a user from deployed positions, in which the base-stabilizing members extend outwardly from the base, to storage positions in which the base-stabilizing members are retracted from the deployed positions.

Claim 2. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the means for powering the electric motor includes an electronic circuit located within the hollow interior of the base.

Claim 3. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for enabling a user to select a running time after which the electric circuit automatically turns the electric motor off.

Claim 4. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for enabling a user to select a speed at which the electric motor operates.

Claim 5. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for automatically reversing motor direction at various times.

Claim 6. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for detecting an animal in close proximity to the apparatus in order to automatically turn the electronic circuit on and power the electric motor when the presence of an animal is so detected.

Claim 7. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein:

- the means for powering the electric motor includes a battery-powered electronic circuit located within the hollow interior of the base;
- the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for enabling a user to select a running time after which the electric circuit automatically turns the electric motor off;
- the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for enabling a user to select a speed at which the electric motor operates; and
- the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for automatically reversing motor direction at various time intervals.

Claim 8. (Original) A cat toy apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the electronic circuit includes means for detecting an animal in close proximity to the apparatus in order to automatically turn the electronic circuit on and power the electric motor when the presence of an animal is so detected.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A cat toy apparatus, ~~[[as recited in claim 2, wherein]]~~ comprising :

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

a object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

a cat-attracting object;

a flexible line connecting the cat-attracting object to the distal end portion of the elongated member; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the cat-attracting object about the motor-supporting structure;

wherein the means for powering the electric motor includes an electronic circuit located within the hollow interior of the base;

wherein the base includes an upper side;

wherein the electronic circuit includes a circuit-controlling knob; and

wherein the base includes cat-ear-depicting graphics, cat-eye-depicting graphics, and cat-whisker-depicting graphics on the upper side that combine with the circuit-controlling knob to depict a cat face, for which cat face the circuit-controlling knob depicts a cat nose.

Claim 10. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A cat toy apparatus, ~~[[as recited in claim 4, wherein]]~~ comprising :

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

an object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

a cat-attracting object;

a flexible line connecting the cat-attracting object to the distal end portion of the elongated member; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the cat-attracting object about the motor-supporting structure;

wherein the motor includes a rigid shaft extending upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure to a terminal end portion of the rigid shaft; and

wherein the proximal end portion of the elongated member is adapted to be removably attached to the terminal end portion of the rigid shaft in slide-on engagement of the terminal end portion in order to facilitate replacement of the object-holding arm.

Claim 12. (Allowed as Currently Amended) A cat toy apparatus, comprising:

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

a object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

a cat-attracting object;

a flexible line connecting the cat-attracting object to the distal end portion of the object-holding arm; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the cat-attracting object about the motor-supporting structure;

said means for powering the electric motor including a battery-powered electronic circuit located within the hollow interior of the base such that the electronic circuit is adapted to function as means for enabling a user to select a running time after which the electric circuit automatically turns the electric motor off, means for enabling the user to select a speed at which the electric motor operates, and means for automatically reversing motor direction at various time intervals;

said motor including a rigid shaft extending upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure to a terminal end portion of the rigid shaft, the object-holding arm including a slender, plastic wand, and the slender plastic wand is adapted to be ~~[[removable]]~~ removably attached to the terminal end portion of the rigid shaft in slide-on engagement of the terminal end portion in order to facilitate replacement of the object-holding arm; and

the apparatus further comprising at least four base-stabilizing members on the base that are adapted to be rotated from deployed positions, in which the base-stabilizing members extend outwardly from the base, to storage positions in which the base-stabilizing members are retracted from the deployed positions.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A cat toy apparatus, comprising:

a support structure having a central axis, which support structure is adapted to rest upon a horizontal support surface with the central axis disposed vertically;

a motor assembly on the support structure, including an electric motor and an electronic circuit for powering the electric motor;

an elongated member having a proximal end portion that is connected to the electric motor and a distal end portion that is disposed upwardly from the motor and radially outwardly from the central axis;

a flexible line connected to the distal end portion of the elongated member, the flexible line having a terminal end; and

an object connected to the terminal end of the flexible line;

wherein the motor assembly is adapted to function as means for rotating the elongated member in order to thereby move the object about the central axis of the support structure for purposes of attracting the attention of an animal [[.]] ;

wherein the motor includes a rigid shaft extending upwardly and radially outwardly from the motor-supporting structure to a terminal end portion of the rigid shaft; and

wherein the proximal end portion of the elongated member is adapted to be removably attached to the terminal end portion of the rigid shaft in slide-on engagement of the terminal end portion in order to facilitate replacement of the elongated member.

Claim 14. (Newly Presented) An animal-attracting apparatus, comprising:

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

a object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

an animal-attracting object connected to the distal end portion of the elongated member; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the animal-attracting object;

said animal-attracting apparatus further comprising at least four base-stabilizing members on the base that are rotatable by a user from deployed positions, in which the base-stabilizing members extend outwardly from the base, to storage positions in which the base-stabilizing members are retracted from the deployed positions.

Claim 15. (Newly Presented) An animal-attracting apparatus, comprising:

a base having a hollow interior;

a motor-supporting structure having a central axis and a hollow interior extending along the central axis, which motor-supporting structure is connected to the base and so arranged that with the base resting on a horizontal support surface, the motor-supporting structure extends upwardly from the base with the central axis disposed vertically;

an electric motor located within the hollow interior of the motor-supporting structure in alignment with the central axis;

a object-holding arm connected to the motor, the object-holding arm including an elongated member having a proximal end portion connected to the motor and a distal end portion disposed upwardly from the motor-supporting structure;

an animal-attracting object connected to the distal end portion of the elongated member; and

means for powering the electric motor in order to rotate the object-holding arm and thereby move the animal-attracting object;

wherein the motor includes a shaft extending upwardly from the motor-supporting structure to a terminal end portion of the shaft; and

wherein the proximal end portion of the elongated member is adapted to be removably attached to the terminal end portion of the shaft in slide-on engagement of the terminal end portion in order to facilitate replacement of the object-holding arm.